

# Feminine Fancies

## Interior Architecture of the Renaissance

That modern tendencies in interior architecture are returning to the standards of beauty known to the best old-world architects, is the belief of a well known artist of Chicago and New York. That those standards have been much more closely adhered to in the eastern part of the United States than in the western portion, needs no argument. This is quite easily explained when it is realized that the west was settled at that period when the great reaction against the old styles in architecture and furniture took possession of the world, especially of the new world.

It was the ugliest period everywhere. Transitional periods usually are. It was the time when families tucked off into attics their tester beds, their antique furniture—their old dishes and coverlets went along with them—and put in their place a type of furniture which, for usefulness generally, has long to seek to find a mate. The early settlers had Indians to fight, huge rolling prairies to plant, and so they build for themselves frame dwellings which would fit into the surroundings. It was so in much that they did in those early days. It was solid, suitable, practical, but far from beautiful.

When the people of the great middle west came to realize that they had time to surround themselves with beauty, they found much of the undesirable in architecture all about them. Slowly they began to replace ugliness with beauty, and this work is today more hopelessly progressing than ever. In few cities of the United States is so much being done to cultivate a love for, and appreciation of, art in all its forms as in Chicago and its vicinity.

"I am not unwilling to state," said Miss Marian Gheen, an interior decorator and architect of Chicago where I find so much that is ugly in architecture, will be the great art center of America. Every day I find new evidence of this great awakening to the need of knowledge among the women, along these same lines. They are eager for beauty in their homes. They are going at it with the independent, energetic enthusiasm of the west, and are proving that with them it is no fad, but a true love of beauty which is impelling them to study.

"There is a great Renaissance movement in America. It started because so many are seeking as never before for simplicity in everything. This simplicity is the foundation of all art. First and foremost it is sincere and true to the classic ideals of all art. Purity of line, and beauty of form, these tell their story simply and finely. The

awakening is great among the women. The women of the United States are admittedly well dressed, yet the houses they have lived in for the most part lack the distinction and individuality to make them fit settings. They lack restraint in line and color.

"When I have asked architects, who are Beaux arts men, why they have fallen from their high ideals, they have replied that they had found it impossible to live up to their ideals, because people do not realize the importance of line and balance. The Beaux arts artists work from an axis. Many American architects draw the plans from the outside in. From this mistaken idea, many mistakes occur. In the last 60 years, it has been the fad for a master carpenter to build the house according to his whims. This explains the unspeakable architectural restlessness of the day.

"Now it is with these results that the artist, the interior architect, is obliged to wrestle. A decorator feels that she must establish on the interior a feeling of balance, so necessary to a really fine atmosphere. So, by our treatment of hangings, we must overcome architectural deficiencies. For instance, when windows are too low for fine effects, it is necessary to build up the valance board. Constantly we are called in to houses and are asked what a certain room needs. We often find that features are so unreasonably placed that it is impossible to do anything with the room until they have been entirely changed, so that a proper balance may be established. So long as men and women will build houses and ignore this important point, just so long will the finest results architecturally be missing.

"But there is already a great awakening along these lines in interior architecture. There are three classes of women who seek the advice of an interior architect. One comes because it is a fad. Another comes because she longs for the knowledge which will help her to express the beautiful in her surroundings. The third comes to talk over beautiful styles, because she appreciates an Adam or Louis XVI chair, and because she loves fine things. It is a most helpful sign of the times, this awakening to beauty for beauty's sake.

"In our work, we call ourselves interior architects. We start with the foundation of the room, before we begin to work. We prefer to have people give their attention to getting the lines and balance of the room right, before any thought is given to what we are to put into that room. Oftentimes we can make the furnishings inexpensive, but we

must make them true to the finer ideals of the classic models. The lines must be right, the colors must be right, the colors must harmonize.

There is rest and repose in such an atmosphere. First of all, I seek to find what a customer wants to bring out of that interior. When I get the ideal, then I submit my several different plans. I want the customer to choose, because that interior must express him. It is plain from this that we never make any two rooms alike. No two ever could be and be right artistically, for each room must fit the one for whom it is equipped.

"We have always felt in this work that, because of the individual nature of each architect, and the individuals whom we would naturally draw toward us who need what we can give, that there is no possible chance of any rivalry between our work and that of any other decorator. I was a musician before taking up this other form of artistic expression. My sister, who has charge of the New York office of our firm, began the work. I wanted another form of artistic expression, and I studied history of art and architecture with experts. Then I took this up with her. We had both lived much abroad, studying the interiors of nearly all the noted homes and palaces of England and the continent, especially France. Other than this, we have neither of us taken any technical training. We have seldom advertised, for we find that those who are seeking that form of art which we love and can express find us.

"Much that we gathered from the wonderful old interiors in Europe we are able to use constantly in interior work. One needs a thorough knowledge of the history of art to get a background for this work. You might do passing work without, but for the depth and finesse of touch, that feeling for real beauty, one needs an appreciation of the relation of the art of all time. I often find that I can go to my music to work out some form of expression which I need in my other allied art. I love them both and find constant joy in each.

"There is a limited opportunity in interior architecture for the expression of beauty. I never tire of it, and I find a joy in gathering about me the beautiful old pieces of art with which I constantly work. One finds a beautiful line here, a choice design there, which just fits into the scheme one is working out. The beautiful thing about our work is that we are building such sure foundations, when we are helping those who come to us, seeking to know how to bring out beauty in their surroundings. There is an uplift in all real beauty. Every time we have helped some one to live in a beautiful setting, we have helped to make a more beautiful world, for

## Fashion Decrees Satin and Wool Jersey for Bathing Suits This Summer

NEW YORK, June 16. — Yellow sands and cool, breezy shores will soon begin to draw the usual crowds that flock to the seaside in the summer months.

This season sees the bathing suits carrying out the same colorful note that predominates in all sports clothes, and in materials there is also a similarity, namely, in the use of one of the most favored of fabrics—wool jersey. This versatile material seems to make itself at home in any sphere. After having made its im-

popularity; and the rubberized cloths are likewise favored to a great extent.

If the one-piece slip-on frocks have been a success in our everyday life, the same style adapted to bathing suits is still more successful. One could ask for nothing more practical than the one-piece bathing dress worn over bloomers, and to it may be added all the prevailing fashion features. There are suits of this type decorated with embroidery, with deep trimming bands, large pockets, and with girdles arranged according to the latest whims of fashion.

Following out one of the late styles in skirts is the bathing suit illustrated with a deep band at the lower part. This band is stitched at the front and back, but the sides are loose to give the effect of bulging pockets or an adaptation of the barrel idea which is still exploited by certain designers. This suit is of black satin with the band of striped satin.

The second sketch shows a chemise bathing suit fashioned of wool jersey with a trimming of braid, and the pointed pockets and long, soft girdle which are featured again and again in the frocks of the hour.

White Turkish toweling with a light blue border trims a dark blue taffeta suit very effectively, forming the sailor collar and a band at the edge of the skirt. White pique and tussur silk collars appear on many suits, and braid is a very popular trimming.

**Bathing Suit Accessories.**  
A complete bathing outfit by no means ends with the selection of the suit. Beach wraps, hats and caps, shoes and stockings, are quite as important. There are sets of matching hats, shoes and huge bags which are considered very smart. Rubberized silks in plain colors as well as striped and flowered effects, are especially attractive for the beach wraps, which are usually made with very large collars.

In hats and caps, the choice lies between round sailors with straight brims and rather high crowns, and the small close-fitting rubber caps. Tam-o-shanters and the Chinese-shaped hats are also seen a great



Black Satin Bathing Suit with Band of Striped Satin.

portance felt in sports clothes, one-piece frocks and semi-formal suits, the bathing suit has been lately added to its conquests. Yet, other materials compare very favorably with jersey cloth at the fashionable beaches. Black satin has lost none of its usual charms; taffeta, mohair, alpaca and poplin still retain their

these things all affect the character. So we feel that our work is really bringing out something above the material in this renaissance of beauty in the home."



Braid-trimmed Suit of Wool Jersey.

deal. On many hats and caps there are novel ornaments of rubber in bright contrasting colors.

**Some New Sweaters.**

To be without a sweater at the seashore is almost as bad as being without a bathing suit. The knitted wool sweaters made with body and sleeves in one seem to be at the height of popularity just now. They are mostly of the kind that is slipped on over the head, with an opening only at the neck. Some of the newest ones are knitted to fit closely at the waist, with the top and the lower part knit more openly. They are usually hip length. Knitted in silk, these look more like waistcoats than sweaters. Orange, rose, light green and royal blue are very prominent colors, sometimes relieved by white collars and cuffs. They are worn with white linen, gabardine, flannel or silk skirts.

There is a wonderful variety of separate skirts for sports wear and general use. The models are box pleated, side pleated, gathered or plain, cut in two or three pieces, and generally carrying large pockets.

**BEEFSTEAK DUMPLINGS.**

Roll pieces of cold beefsteak in a little water until very tender, then chop fine and season to taste with salt and pepper. Make a crust of flour, salt and baking powder moistened to a proper consistency with water, roll out on a biscuit board and cut into fair sized pieces for individual dumplings. Place some of the chopped meat on each piece, also a small piece of butter, and fold the crust over it, being careful to fasten the edges securely together with flour and water. Steam for about 20 minutes. Make a gravy with the water in which the steak was boiled and serve with the dumplings.

## Housekeeping in War Times.

By Irene Weston.

If it is true as has been announced, that in 70 per cent of households throughout the United States there is a daily, almost criminal, waste of food, why should not relief be found in reducing the number of individual opportunities for this wastage?

Would it be a less herculean task to arrange a system whereby the necessity of preparing meals could be eliminated in a countless number of American homes than to educate and reform those who now wastefully preside over the cook stoves therein?

I am so much struck by what a woman who signs herself "Olivia" writes in a recent issue of the Sphere of London that I venture to quote it in full.

"There is," she says, "a movement on foot for the establishment of municipal kitchens and restaurants, which, if the, could be successfully instituted, would revolutionize the lives of many thousands of overworked, worried women in all grades of life.

"The strain and needless drudgery of housekeeping at present are often almost intolerable, and the whole method of individual housekeeping is exceedingly wasteful.

"Common kitchens would, when got into proper working order, and if properly run, save food, labor, fuel and an enormous lot of time and energy that is being wasted at present. They would also insure the better feeding of the nation and thus promote better health and greater efficiency all round. To middle-class householders it would be an immense boon if they could contract for wholesome food decently cooked and at moderate prices.

"The canteniers have shown how well and economically such things can be done. Never was there greater need for them than now. How much lighter the food controller's task would be if they were in existence, and how much more secure over the proper distribution and conservation of the food supply of the country.

"This is the time for them, for whether the war be long or short, we shall need them, and for long after peace comes, for even peace will not bring an immediate end of our difficulties.

"The scheme is perfectly feasible and eminently desirable from every

## Menu for Simple June Company Luncheon

By Ida C. Bailey Allen.

(Quoted from Fictorial Review for June, 1917.)

Spring canapés, bouillon (hot or cold), hot toast sticks, macaroni and veal salad with rolls, boiled oil dressing, fresh strawberry and pineapple tarts, coffee.

**Spring Canapés.**  
Shape stale bread into rounds, allowing one to each guest. Brush with melted butter, and toast them in the oven. Then spread each with a paste made of cooked seasoned spinach mixed with an equal quantity of sardines (smoked) and a little mayonnaise. Border with hard-boiled egg-white chopped, and fashion a "flower" in the center of each four bits of pimiento and hard-boiled egg-yolk.

**Macaroni and Veal Salad.**  
One cupful macaroni in half-inch pieces, 1-2 cupful sliced crisp radishes, 3-4 cupful shredded lettuce-leaves, 1-2 cupful sliced cooked veal, 1-4 cupful sliced olives (minced), boiled oil dressing, additional lettuce for garnishing. Boil the macaroni until tender. Drain, rinse with cold water and chill. Mix with the remaining ingredients, put together with dressing

to moisten, and arrange on a bed of lettuce leaves.

**Boiled Oil Dressing: a Mayonnaise Substitute.**  
Mix in a measuring cup two table-spoonfuls of oil and 2 1-2 table-spoonfuls of pastry flour with the juice of a good sized lemon. Fill the cup with hot water. Then transfer the mixture to a double-boiler and cook until thick, stirring constantly.

Cool the mixture, then beat in one beaten egg-yolk, a cupful of olive oil, and then a teaspoonful of salt, 1-8 teaspoonful of pepper and 1-4 teaspoonful of mustard. Thin with the egg white whipped stiff.

**Fresh Strawberry and Pineapple Tarts.**

Bake tart-shells of chicken-fat pastry (see May Pictorial Review) on inverted muffin-tins.

Just before serving fill with a mixture of two-thirds strawberries and one-third shredded pineapple—which have been sweetened, seasoned with cinnamon, and allowed to stand in the sun for two hours. Garnish each tart with three tiny cream cheese balls, dusted with sugar or rolled in fresh minced mint.

point of view, and simply awaits good, economical, and sensible organization to become a success and a great alleviation of many of the ills from which the whole community is suffering at present."

The plan above proposed might not be feasible in country districts, but in larger centers of population would it not facilitate the work and vastly augment the efficiency of any national board of food control?

**Tip to Girls.**

Here is a timely tip for girls. She had had a young man calling on her regularly and devotedly for some time. One day she met him on the street. She had on a new hat and looked her prettiest, so he observed, and she saw he did. "Do you like it?" she queried. "Oh, yes," he responded. "Forty dollars," she said with evident pride. Soon after he went upon his way and she hers. Days passed, and then weeks. His calls had ceased suddenly. Then one day she met him on the street again. "Why don't you come to see me any more?" she queried. "Hat!" he responded with laconic fervor.

## ARTIFICIAL IVORY MAKES FRIENDS.

Artificial ivory, which is made chiefly from tissue paper, is gaining many friends, owing to its cheapness, its light weight, and the increasing variety of the articles made from it. Since it was first introduced for dressing table use, a few years ago, the number of pieces available for toilet sets has been increased from 30 to 35. This ivory is now preferred by many women to the silver, ebony and wood, as it washes easily, is clean and dainty, and does not tarnish nor wear down.

## CRETONNE AS TRIMMING.

One of the advance notes of spring is that cretonne will be considerably used, as a trimming for sport suits. These cretonnes are striped and flowered in such a way that can be cut away and used in any application way desired. Some of the dresses and suits, which originated in Paris, are trimmed with small bits of ribbon or printed material in which the small flower ornament is outlined with gold embroidery thread.

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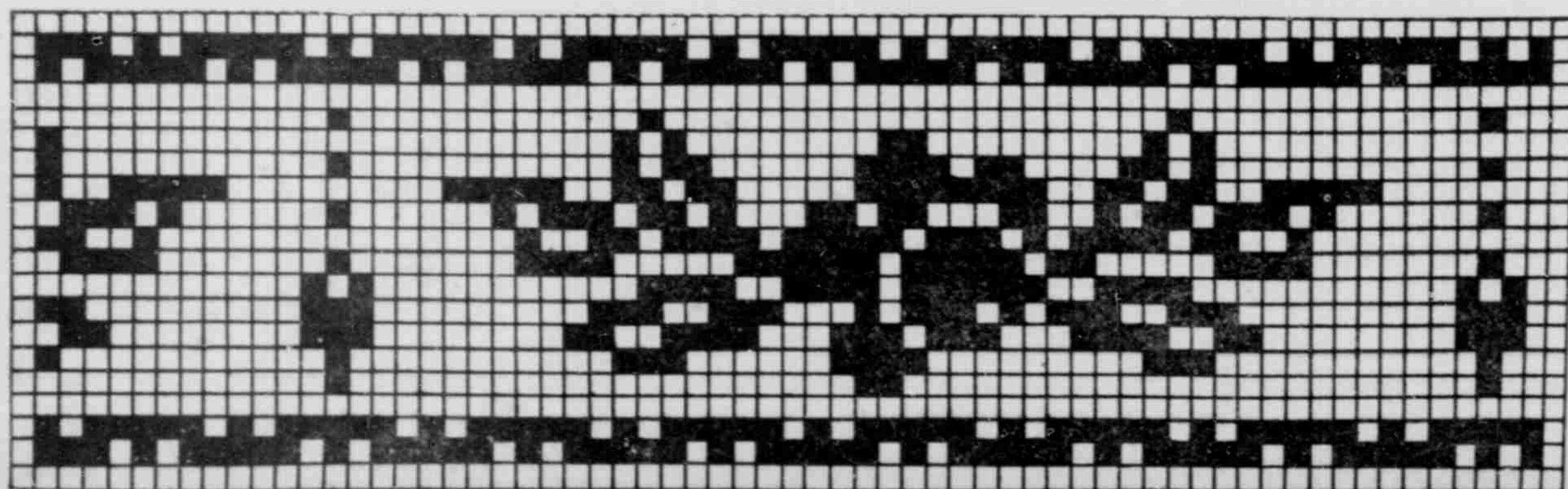
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## GRACEFUL DESIGN FOR BEDROOM LINEN.

This design, graceful and effective, has been made particularly suitable for bedroom linen sets and is easily adopted when centrally placed to the ends of the various pieces such as dresser and chifonier scarfs, towel ends, daytime pillow cases, top of the upper sheet and a long oblong pin cushion. The petals of the flowers are to be worked in the satin stitch and the centers in French knots, the leaves either in satin stitch or fish bone stitch and the stems outlined. Mercerized cotton No. 18, is used.

## FILET CROCHET.

This block pattern makes a beautiful insertion or when each motive is used separately it forms an attractive insert. When crocheted of the finer cottons from No. 50 to No. 80, it makes a lovely top band for a camisole or chemise held with shoulder ribbons. When it is made of coarser cotton such as No. 30 it is suitable for dresser and serving table scarfs.



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